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MARCH 6.

Mr. GEO. W. TRYON, JR., in the chair.

Twenty-six persons present.

Permian Fishes and Reptiles.—Prof. COPE exhibited some specimens of fishes and reptiles from the Permian formation of Texas. One of these was a new species of Crossopterygian fish which he named *Ectosteorhachis ciceronius*, which exhibited some important characters of the posterior cranial region. He stated that the base of the skull consists of ossified parachordals, and these embrace the chordadorsalis posteriorly, and are continued for a short distance posteriorly as a tube. Anteriorly the chordal groove is open. Trabeculæ not ossified. He considered the cranial structure to be an excellent illustration of a permanent embryonic type.

The most interesting reptile was a new genus which occupies a place between the *Pelycosauria* with molar teeth, and those with raptorial teeth, but with more resemblance to the former, or *Dialectidæ*. The teeth are placed transversely in the jaws, but the crowns terminate in an incurved apex, without ledge. He named the genus *Chilonyx*, and referred it provisionally to the *Bolosauridæ*. The typical species is the *Bolosaurus rapidens* (Cope, 1878), an animal with a skull as large as that of a hog, and with robust limbs. The surface of the skull is divided by grooves into numerous swollen areas, and some of these are, on the lateral occipital region, developed into tuberosities like the rudimental horns of the *Phrynosoma douglassi*.

Phenomena of Glaciation.—Professor HEILPRIN, referring to his former communication on the phenomena of glaciation, stated that if the principles laid down by him as to the limitation (in height) of a polar ice-cap be correct, then the same principles must likewise hold good for all portions of the earth's surface. In other words, given an elevation of sufficient magnitude, then the upper portion of the same, by virtue of its rising above the cloud-line, must be either bare of snow or covered only with a comparatively feeble thickness of the same. This view, which the speaker believed was first enunciated by Humboldt, receives confirmation from observations made on the Alps and on other high mountain peaks. Thus, according to Tschudi, only a comparatively very feeble thickness of snow falls on the Alpine summits above an altitude of about 10,800 feet, the heavy precipitation being principally confined to a zone comprised between 7000 and 9000 feet. The brothers Schlagintweit determined the cumulus line in the